

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3.

A limitation present in claim 1 but absent in the art cited by the Examiner (particularly Webb) is the feature that the Poker hand cannot exceed 21. This feature, in combination with the re-evaluation of the "face" cards results in both a concept familiar to players (the inability to exceed a hand with a value of 21 being common in blackjack) and unfamiliar (in that such a limitation is not found in Poker hand). Such a feature thus, while based on a familiar concept, is applied in an unfamiliar way, forcing the player to devise new strategies to succeed in the Poker game. This unfamiliar application makes the present invention novel and non-obvious in light of the cited art, which does not include or suggest such a feature.

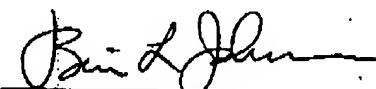
Applicant believes the additional limitation in Claim 1 satisfies the Examiner's utility objection.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fees of \$1080, to Deposit Account No. 04-0258. If additional fees are believed necessary, the Commissioner is further authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-0258.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now believed to be allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If questions remain regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7670.

Respectfully submitted,
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